

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

As our Deliverer King, Jesus moves into action when we call on Him because He delights in us.

THIS WEEK’S BIBLICAL BASIC

Hope: I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ. *“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. Jesus has entered there on our behalf as a forerunner, because he has become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek,” (Hebrews 6:19–20, CSB).*

Questions for Your Journal

Use these following questions to evaluate what you learned from Sunday's sermon.

Summary:

- The main thing the speaker wants me to do, be, and/or feel as a result of this message.

Application to My Life:

- What did God say to me through this message?
 - How does my life measure up to this word?
 - What action(s) will I take to bring my life in line with this word?
 - What truth do I need to study further?
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Understanding Jesus' Role as Teacher

Most believers rightly recognize Jesus as their Savior. That is, as those who have experienced salvation and recognize the great cost required to secure it, we think first of this great gift and the One who provided it for us. Again, this is right for us to do, and it follows the pattern laid down in Scripture (2 Tm 1:10; 1 Jn 4:14). At the same time, one of the most common titles and roles attributed to Jesus by the women and men portrayed in the Gospels is "Teacher." Before He gave His life for us, He gave His teaching. He even certifies this way of speaking about Him in John 13: "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am" (v. 13). But what exactly is a teacher and what about Jesus made Him "the teacher *par excellence*"?¹

THE TEACHER IN SCRIPTURE

At its most basic level, a teacher is "one who instructs others," and throughout the Scriptures, various individuals are identified as serving this role for God's people. Moses stands out as the most prominent teacher in the Old Testament. As God's prophet, Moses was given the task of speaking God's Word to the people of Israel and their enemies (e.g., Pharaoh), but speaking God's Word requires more than simply relaying information. Moses was called to "teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do" (Ex 18:20). He even describes his task in that way. When he was making final preparations for Israel to enter into the Promised Land, he told them: "O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you" (Dt 4:1). Yet, while Moses' influence is clearly felt throughout the Old Testament, the prophets draw our attention to seeing God as the great Teacher. For example, Isaiah points to the orderliness of the farmer's work and the God who "instructs and teaches him" to do it (Is 28:26). And God speaks to His people, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way you should go" (Is 48:17).

However, even when God is recognized as the true teacher, He still gives humans guides. In Judaism these were Rabbis, and they developed an extensive library of helpful religious texts—

known as the Mishnah and Talmud. These Rabbis were seen as wise men, experts on Moses' Law, and even something like a "Sunday school" teacher.² In fact, Jesus himself was addressed by the term "Rabbi" (e.g., Mt 26:26; Mk 11:21; Jn 1:38) and its heightened form, "Rabboni" (Mk 10:51; Jn 20:16). Therefore, Jesus' ministry as teacher should be understood with the Old Testament and first-century contexts in mind. Jesus, like Moses, authoritatively speaks God's Word to His people and interprets its true meaning so that they would obey Him. Like the Rabbis, He deals with thorny legal issues and their ethical implications. And as the prophets anticipated, Jesus is God-in-flesh who goes beyond what any human teacher can do. He not only shows the way, He is the "Way" we should go (Jn 14:6), and by entrusting ourselves to His gentle care, we begin to learn how to love God and obey Him from our hearts while our souls remain perfectly at rest in Him (Mt 11:29).

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Psalm 18 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

As David recounts his experience of God's deliverance and protection he draws on rich language used throughout the Old Testament to describe God's appearance. **Read Psalm 18:7–15. What elements of this description stick out most to you? Compare this description with Exodus 19:10–19. What do these passages have in common?**

The Psalms often mention the psalmists' faith and obedience as the reason for God's care for them, but Psalm 18:20–24 stands out as one of the more confident statements. **Read Psalm 18:20–24. While David made God's Law his delight, these verses find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, David's descendent. Read Philippians 2:5–11. What role did Jesus' obedience play in his exaltation and enthronement?**

One of David's favorite ways to describe God's role in his life is to call Him a "rock," and in Psalm 18, David uses this metaphor four times (18:2, 31, 46). While David's preference for this description likely reflected the location of God's deliverances (see e.g., 1 Sam. 23:25-28), it is also used by other Old Testament authors.³ **Read Deuteronomy 32:1-4, 15-18, 29-33. Why is the image of a rock appropriate to describe God's character and ways? Offer Him a prayer of thanksgiving for the times He has been the Rock to you?**

While Psalm 18 is David's expression of thanksgiving for God's deliverance, it also anticipates the deliverance of others. The Apostle Paul quotes Ps. 18:49 in Romans 15:9 and interprets it as an anticipation of the salvation of Gentiles. **Read Romans 15:7-13. How should reflecting on God's salvation lead Christians to worship Him? How does God's "track record" lead us to have hope in His ability to deliver us in the future?**

Examine

Based on 2 Timothy 3:16 ("All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"), this series of questions is intended to help you figure out what you should do or believe in response to this text. (This passage may not have a clear answer for each question. Just use them to prompt your thinking.)

1. What does this passage tell me to believe?

(How does it teach me?)

2. What does this passage tell me not to believe?

(How does it reprove me?)

3. How does this passage tell me not to live?

(How does it correct me?)

4. How does this passage tell me to live?

(How does it train me in righteousness?)

Embrace

After spending significant time with this passage, you've probably learned a lot and heard God speak to you through His Word. Look back at your responses to the previous questions and ask God to show you how you can respond to this text this week.

Write down some ideas for how you can respond to the truth of God's Word.

About The Map

The Map exists to help you consistently reflect on Scripture as you pursue maturity in Christ. When you devote yourself to reading God's Word, and meditate on what you read, you're allowing Him to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

NOTES:

1. Jan H. Nylund, "Teacher," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).
2. Craig S. Keener, *Matthew*, vol. 1, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997).
3. Derek Kidner, *Psalms 1–72: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 15, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973), 108.



Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens for discipleship activities completed during the week. They can spend them at the Adventure Store on the last Sunday of the month.

Big Picture Questions for Unit 33: “The God Who Changes Us”

Preschool: Q: Who changes us?
A: *God changes us to be like Jesus.*

Kids (1-6): Q: Who changes us?
A: *The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God’s glory.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Jesus was Born**

Day 1: *1 Kings 16:29-34; 17*

Day 2: *1 Kings 18-19*

Day 3: *1 Kings 21-22*

Day 4: *2 Kings 2*

Day 5: *2 Kings 5; 6:1-23*

**Preschool readings are taken from [The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, New Testament](#) (B&H Publishing Group), available at [Amazon.com](#) & [LifeWay Christian Store](#).*

Key Passage for Unit 33: “The God Who Changes Us”

Preschoolers: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17, CSB)

Kids (1-6 grade): “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17, CSB)

Northway’s Family Ministry uses *The Gospel Project* to help preschoolers, kids, and students grow in their knowledge of Scripture and of Jesus Christ, about whom it was all written (Luke 24:44-49).



Adventure Token Coupon

Fill this out and bring it to Bible Study for your tokens!

I worked on learning my big picture question and key passage _____.

I read my Bible at home _____.

Child’s Name _____.

Parent’s Signature _____.

30 BIBLICAL BASICS

CORE BELIEFS

God | 2 Corinthians 13:13

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Personal God | Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace | Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides my belief and action.

Identity in Christ | John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church | Ephesians 4:15

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

Humanity | John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion | Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Stewardship | Psalm 24:1-2

I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

Eternity | John 14:1-2

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish His eternal kingdom.

CORE PRACTICES

Worship | Psalm 95:1-2

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer | Psalm 66:18-20

I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before him.

Bible Study | Hebrews 4:12

I study the Bible to know God and his truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness | Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Total Surrender | Romans 12:1

I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

Biblical Community | Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.

Spiritual Gifts | Romans 12:4-6

I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

Offering My Time | Colossians 3:17

I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving My Resources | 2 Corinthians 8:7

I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Sharing My Faith | Ephesians 6:19-20

I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

CORE VIRTUES

Love | 1 John 4:10-12

I am committed to loving God and loving others.

Joy | John 15:11

Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my purpose in life.

Peace | Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Self-Control | Titus 2:11-13

I have the power through Christ to control myself.

Hope | Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

Patience | Proverbs 14:29

I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness | 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness | Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness | Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Humility | Philippians 2:3-4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

The 30 Biblical Basics are the skeleton of a person being formed into the image of Jesus by His Spirit (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18), a helpful framework for the Christian's thoughts, actions, and character. As we commit ourselves to growing in Christ through the process of spiritual formation, we pray these statements become increasingly true of us. When they are, we'll be able to carry out the biblical mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), and to truly **love, live, and lead like Jesus.**